

QUEEN ANNE COBBLESTONE

MARCH, 2011

Bayview Celebrates 50 years on the Hill

Set Your Calendar: Wednesday, March 30, 7pm

2011 marks the 50th anniversary of Bayview Manor which sits at the location of the former Kinnear Mansion. Queen Anne Historical Society is proud to be sponsoring an event on March 30th 2011 to honor this occasion.

Beth Dodrill, local preservationist and board



GARDEN AT BAYVIEW MANOR (COURTESY BAYVIEW MANOR)

member of Docomomo/WEWA, a Northwest Modernism advocacy

group, will outline Bayview's place in Seattle history.

Please join us at 7 p.m. for refreshments and door prizes and listen to our program of how Bayview came to be and how it has grown.

The meeting is free to the public, as always. Further information may be obtained by calling (206) 438-2740 or (206) 284-2266, or email

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Bayview arrives on Queen Anne ... learn about it on Wednesday, March 30
- ◆ Northwest Modernism and our local architecture
- ◆ Food for thought: why should buildings be history?
- ◆ Looking ahead: Mimi Sheridan speaks on May 26

Beth Dodrill, Guest Speaker

[from the Docomomo WEWA website:]

Beth came west from her native Kentucky in 1998 seeking the great outdoors and other educational pursuits.

After completing her Masters in Landscape Architecture and Certificate in Preservation Planning at the University of Washington, she practiced as an independent preservation consultant and landscape designer for five years. She joined

the Seattle office of Historical Research Associates as a Project Architectural Historian in 2008.

Beth has served as a preservation advocate for many years with Historic Seattle PDA, and is a board member of the E. B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust. Beth's advocacy extends beyond mid-century modernism and historic garden conservation to include preservation of cultural land-

scapes, and vernacular and ethnic cultural resources. She is also interested in architectural photography as well as industrial design, domestic architecture and interiors, furniture and fashion design.

In her spare time she reads a lot and likes to walk, hike, and bike to the library, around her neighborhood, and in the mountains. <http://www.docomomo-wewa.org/board.php>

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Northwest Modernism

BAYVIEW
COMMUNITY
CELEBRATES ITS
50TH YEAR.



50 YEARS AGO ON THE HILL: POSTCARD OF THE BAYVIEW RETIREMENT HOME (COURTESY OF EUGENIA WOO)

Modern architecture conjures word associations: some positive such as ‘utilitarian’, ‘clean’, and ‘uncluttered’; some ambiguous such as ‘institutional’, ‘stark’, and ‘brutal.’

But so it is.

The years following World War II saw unprecedented

prosperity coupled with a burgeoning population that was ever more equal.

“The modern movement was a revolution in social purpose as well as architectural forms. It tried to reconcile industrialism, society and nature, projecting prototypes for mass housing and

ideal plans for new homes and even cities.” [http://www. preservationidaho.org/modernism/background.html](http://www.preservationidaho.org/modernism/background.html).

As cities grew, the individual home with its tidy yard yielded to the pressures of escalating land values. More people vied for less space.

This inevitable shift in the life of the city — from isolated castle to great public service — is nowhere more evident than at Bayview. Here, the Methodist Church — 50 years ago — built a home for the elderly that has commanding views of the Puget Sound, grand interior spaces reminiscent of the mansion it replaced, and a large staff dedicated to assisting many, many fathers and mothers, grandmothers and grandfathers from our community.

Also 50 years ago: ground-breaking for the Space Needle

At right, an architectural rendering of the Space Needle. Construction on the needle was halted for 3 weeks while a mother duck sat on her nest, waiting for her ducklings to hatch. (Don Duncan, “Meet Me at the Center”, 1992, pg 45).



Food for thought: Buildings and history

Buildings are interesting inanimate objects.

We manage to assemble some local materials, add the flair (or not) of an architect, and end up with a useful shelter.

But then something remarkable happens. People occupy the structure and imbue it with a human history; it joins a host of structures that define a community's physical environment; it takes on an importance — **for some** — far beyond its original cost. The building enters into many historical narratives.

That “for some” is the rub. For any building, over time, there are a lot of stories. Certainly, among the many stories attached to each place are several strands that could easily be the next great historical novel. Perhaps a group is associated with a place, or a crime, or a decision, or a birth.

So, how do we ever start to distill importance in buildings when so much differing history is wrapped in each one? What criteria is used to judge a landmark? From the Landmarks Preservation Board's Landmark Nomination Application, we see a struggle with understanding the full ‘significance’ of a building.

Wooden structures had the peculiar advantage that, due to their more fragile material, many simply disappeared over time. A developer could easily arrive in the morning, tear a wooden structure down, and be working on a new foundation the next day. Over time, any surviving structure might easily meet the Nomination's uniqueness criterion. Better yet, the archives of the owners were preserved on perishable paper, and so time would do its work on any associated

memories.

Concrete and steel -- even brick -- do not have this ‘self-selecting’ character. They don't burn or rot; they don't disappear easily. The stories that are associated with the larger buildings are nearly countless. How many historic deals occurred in the Columbia Tower?

The landmark process becomes a much harder task for the groups interested in preservation. If nearly all these buildings survive, then the more subjective selection criteria come into play.

As we move through this century, the landmarking process is likely to become ever more heated as those inanimate objects represent more and more of our collective memories.

- Mark Huck, Editor

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE QUEEN ANNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS TO RECORD AND PRESERVE, IN PERMANENT FORM, THE HISTORY OF THE SETTLING OF THE QUEEN ANNE COMMUNITY IN SEATTLE, WA AND TO DEVELOP WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AN APPRECIATION AND CONCERN FOR ITS HISTORY AND ITS HISTORICAL SITES.

At Your Service ...

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WE'RE ON THE WEB! QAHISTORY.ORG

Kim's Musings ... living on the fault.

Once again, major earthquakes across the Pacific have made us aware of what they can do. Our ability to cope with natural disasters is guaranteed to fail when we come up against the might of the Earth itself.

My first earthquake was on 13 April 1949. This was the quake by which all later quakes were measured. We were downtown to meet a family friend for lunch at Rhodes.

Just around noon, the building began to rock back and forth. We were seated on the one couch, under an arch, and watched as the windows crashed out and down to the street. Plaster fell around us. A woman turned completely

white, and had to lie down.

The rocking stopped.

The 1965 earthquake caught me at home, still in bed, as my work hours were noon to nine p.m. The bedroom rocked like a ship at sea, in an east-west motion.

We weren't able to use the fireplace for about six months until the chimney was repaired. Lots of damage was done at some of the outlying library buildings, West Seattle's branch, particularly. But we all recovered from that one and continue to await the next. The Nisqually quake again failed to do damage where I lived, so it is likely that my chances of losing at

least some collectibles during the next big one is unavoidable. At least Queen Anne Hill will remain a refuge from the possible tsunami threat.

The waterfront, Interbay, and the low areas around Magnolia are not so secure. But that is for those residents and workers to consider.

All of which brings to mind the question, if an earthquake is bigger than a ten, how can they rate it?

Kim R. Turner, Research
Chair, QAHS

